

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: GOUV APPROVES NEW ELECTORAL LAW

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0038

1. ON JANUARY 18, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED TWO
DECREES WHICH WILL SERVE AS THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW
GOVERNING BOTH LEGISLATIVE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS,
IN APRIL AND MAY 1978. DECREES WILL BE PUBLISHED
SHORTLY BUT SUMMARY OF THEM APPEARED IN THE INDEPENDENT
DAILY "L'OBSERVATEUR" OF JANUARY 20.

2. THE FIRST DECREE DEALING WITH ELECTIONS TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SETS THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES AT 57
DEVIDED AS FOLLOWS AMONG THE 10 DEPARTMENTS:
DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTER (OUAGADOUGOU) 10
DEPARTMENT OF CENTER-EAST (TENKODOGO) 4
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DEPARTMENT OF CENTER-NORTH (KAYA) 6
DEPARTMENT OF CENTER-EST (KOUDOUGOU) 8
DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST (FADA N'GOURMA) 4
DEPARTMENT OF HAUTS-BASSINS (BOBO-DIOULASSO) 6
DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH (OUAHIGOYA) 5
DEPARTMENT OF THE SAHEL (DORI) 4
DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH-WEST (GAOUA) 4

DEPARTMENT OF BLACK VOLTA (DEDOUGOU) 6

3. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MUST BE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OLD AND MEET CERTAIN DETAILED REQUIREMENTS. THEY MUST DEPOSIT 100,000 FRANCS CFA WHICH DEPOSIT WILL BE RETURNED TO THEM IF THEY OBTAIN AT LEAST 10 0/0 OF THE VALID BALLOTS. A PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ELECTORAL SYSTEM WILL BE USED, PRESUMABLY WITH THE DEPARTMENTS AS ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

4. SECOND DEGREE DEALING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS STATES THAT CANDIDATES MUST BE AT LEAST 40 YEARS OLD AND VOLTAN CITIZENS BY BIRTH. THEY CAN SUBMIT THEIR CANDIDACIES EITHER AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS CANDIDATES OF SPECIFIC POLITICAL PARTIES. THEY MUST DEPOSIT 1 MILLION FRANCS CFA WHICH DEPOSIT WILL BE RETURNED TO THEM IF THEY OBTAIN AT LEAST 25 0/0 OF VALID BALLOTS.

5. COMMENT: ON THE BASIS OF THE SUMMARY PUBLISHED BY "L'OBSERVATEUR" THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE CHANGE IN THE DECREE GOVERNING LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AS COMPARED TO THE ELECTIONS OF DECEMBER 1970. THE NUMBER OF DEPUTIES REMAINS THE SAME. THE PROVISION THAT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAN RUN EITHER AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES IS INTERESTING SINCE IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED THAT, IF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA DECIDES TO BE A CANDIDATE, HE WILL RUN AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND NOT AS THE CANDIDATE OF A POLITICAL PARTY. GRAHAM

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